

REMARKS

Claims 46-67 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 6 of the office action, claims 49, 53, 58, 62, and 66 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, for the reasons given by the Examiner in that paragraph.

Accordingly, claim 49 has been rewritten in independent form, renumbered as claim **68**. It is submitted that claim 68 is now in form for allowance. It is further submitted that new claims 69-74 (based on original claims 47-48 and 51-54), which now depend on claim 68, are also in form for allowance.

Claim 53 has been rewritten in independent form, renumbered as claim **75**. It is submitted that claim 75 is now in form for allowance. It is further submitted that new claims 76-79 (based on original claims 47-48, 51 and 54), which now depend on claim 75, are also in form for allowance.

Claim 58 has been rewritten in independent form, renumbered as claim **80**. It is submitted that claim 80 is now in form for allowance. It is further submitted that new claims 81-86 (based on original claims 56-57 and 60-63), which now depend on claim 80, are also in form for allowance.

Claim 62 has been rewritten in independent form, renumbered as claim **87**. It is submitted that claim 87 is now in form for allowance. It is further submitted that new claims 88-91 (based on original claims 56-57, 60 and 63), which now depend on claim 87, are also in form for allowance.

Appl. No. 09/718,500
Amdt. Dated May 2, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 14, 2006

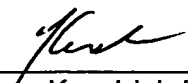
Claim 66 has been rewritten in independent form, renumbered as claim **92**. It is submitted that claim 92 is now in form for allowance. It is further submitted that new claims 93 and 94 (based on original claims 65 and 67), which now depend on claim 92, are also in form for allowance.

Claim dependencies and minor errors in the claims have been corrected. In view of the new claims reciting allowable subject matter, claims 46-67 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation or divisional applications claiming the benefit of the present application, and to address the Examiner's reasons that relate to the claims that were rejected in this office action during the prosecution of such continuation or divisional applications.

Claims 68-94 are now pending in the application. For the reasons provided by the Examiner in paragraph 6 of the office action, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 68-94 is in form for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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